(c) whether it is a fact that joint educational fair was organized by Government with diverse Russian institutions;

(d) the steps Government would take to ensure that Indian students studying in foreign universities are not harassed about their qualifications and degrees when they return to India; and

(e) the steps proposed to rectify the existing weaknesses in the accreditation system of Government in such matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) University Grants Commission (UGC) has received several complaints from Indian students pursuing studies abroad regarding misleading claims being made by foreign universities/institutions in respect of the courses offered by them and validity of their degrees.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In order to avoid misguidance of Indian students by foreign universities/institutions, UGC issued an advisory to students as under:—

> "All Indian students wishing to pursue studies abroad may contact the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) or visit their website *www.aiuweb.org* for information regarding the accreditation status of foreign universities and the valuation and equivalence of degrees and diplomas awarded by the accredited universities abroad."

(e) The Association of Indian Universities recognized degrees awarded by universities abroad based on an assessment of course content, duration etc. Where there are difficulties in any matter, efforts are made either through normal channels or through the agency of an Education Exchange Programme, if it exists, to resolve the matter.

Expenditure on Navodaya Vidyalayas

1394. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount provided for each of the students of Navodaya Vidyalayas on food, clothing and other items per month:

(b) whether the food provided in these model schools is substandard in many respects;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering increase in the expenditure on these counts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a)As per information received from Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, the details of the amount provided for each student of Navodaya Vidyalaya on food, clothing and other items are given below:—

ITEM	AMOUNT
Food	(a) Rs. 600/- p.m. for 9 months for normal stations.
	(b) Rs. 750/- p.m. for 9 months for Vidyalayas located in hard and difficult areas in North Eastern States, J&K and Andaman & Nicobar Islands and certain identified hard & difficult stations in other States.
Clothing	(a) Rs. 75/- p.m. for 12 months in Summer Bound Areas.
	(b) Rs. 100/- p.m. for 12 months in Winter Bound Areas.
Text books	Rs. 12.50 p.m. for 12 months
Daily Use Items	Rs. 29/- (approx.) p.m. for 12 months.
Stationery Travel, Medical expenses, CBSE fees etc,	Rs. 46/- (approx.) p.m. for 12 months.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Punjab and Maharashtra

1395. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the object of starting Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and whether the same has been achieved in the States of Punjab and Maharashtra;

(b) whether the funds allocated/sanctioned for this purpose for these States have been fully utilized during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(c) whether it is a fact that the population of non-school going children is higher in each State mentioned above; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by Government to achieve the object of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, State-wise?